

[Translation]

**Grant of Subsidies to Small
and Marginal Farmers**

1035. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the direct and indirect types of subsidies granted to farmers alongwith their annual effect;

(b) the subsidies out of them granted to small and marginal farmers as well as to relatively poor sections of farmers;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain that the benefit of subsidies reach the targeted population;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which it is ensured that the benefit of the subsidies actually reach to the targeted population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Major agricultural input subsidies given to farmers are fertilizers, irrigation, power and credit subsidy. Direct subsidy on urea is given by the Central Government to manufacturers of fertilizers to enable them to make available the fertilizers at reduced rates to the farmers. Urea is subsidised and sold at a uniform price of Rs. 3660/- per tonne throughout the country. In addition the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing, from Rabi 1992-93, a scheme of concession on sale of phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilizers to the farmers on the following:

Product	Rate of concession from 1.4.1997 (Rs. per tonne)
Indigenous DAP	3750
Imported DAP	2250
MOP	2000
SSP	600
Indigenous complexes	1149-3320

Since there is no mechanism to pay directly to the farmers, the subsidy/concession is routed through the fertilizer supplies. The provision in RE 1996-97 and in BE 1997-98 for the payment of subsidy on urea and concession on P&K fertilisers is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Subsidy on Urea	Concession on P&K Fertilizers
RE—1996-97	6093	1674
BE—1997-98	7190	2000

Subsidies on irrigation and power are given indirectly by the State Governments charging lower rates than that of actual costs.

All these subsidies/concessions are available to all the categories of farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(c) to (e) No study has been conducted to verify whether such subsidies/concessions reach to the targeted population. However, it is not practically feasible to pay the subsidies/concessions directly to the farmers whose number is nearly 105 million and spread over the length and breadth of the country. All the policy guidelines for payment of subsidies/concessions are done keeping in view the interest of the farmers.

[English]

Representation in CACP

1036. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Maharashtra to appoint at least one State representative in the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the policy of the Government in respect of appointments of the members;

(c) whether the Government have re-constituted the said Commission;

(d) if so, the details of members with their representing States; and

(e) the action taken by the Government on the request of the Government of Maharashtra?